Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended):

A method, ~~comprising~~ comprising:

switching data traffic having packets of data of a plurality of sizes between a first number of local area network (LAN) ports and a second number of wide area networks (WAN) links of a router resource; and

controlling utilization of ~~a~~ the router resource at ~~the~~ an interface between ~~a~~ the first number of local area network (LAN) ports and ~~a~~ the second number of wide area networks (WAN) links ~~links, the LAN ports providing packets of data having a plurality of sizes, the utilization by each LAN port being controlled~~ according to bandwidth availability of corresponding bundles of the WAN links assigned to each of the LAN ports and a switching capacity of the router resource.

2. (original):

The method of claim 1 wherein individual ones of the LAN ports are permitted to exceed their fair share of the switching capacity of the router resource if a current switching load due to traffic from all of the LAN ports is less than a maximum switching capacity for the router resource.

3. (original):

The method of claim 1 wherein if a current switching load due to traffic from all of the LAN

ports is equal to a maximum switching capacity of the router resource then those of the LAN

ports that are attempting to utilize more than their fair share of the bandwidth availability or

the switching capacity are throttled back.

4. (original):

The method of claim 3 wherein throttling back to LAN port comprises dropping packets

inbound on that port at the packets' entry point to the router resource.

5. (currently amended):

A method, comprising comprising:

determining, at an entry port selected from one of a first number of local area network

(LAN) ports of a router resource, whether or not to admit inbound traffic according to

a fair allocation distribution scheme that allows traffic to be admitted according to

bandwidth availability of a corresponding exit port point for the traffic selected from

one of a second number of wide area networks (WAN) links of the router resource

and a current utilization of total switching capacity of the router resource; and

switching admitted inbound traffic having packets of data of a plurality of sizes from the

entry port to the exit port of the router resource.

6. (currently amended):

The method of claim 5 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows, traffic to be admitted so long as the bandwidth availability of the corresponding exit ~~point~~ port exists.

7. (currently amended):

The method of claim 5 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows traffic to be admitted even if ~~a~~ the exit port of the router resource associated with the traffic is exceeding an allocated amount of the total switching capacity of the router resource so long as the total switching capacity of the router resource has not been attained.

8. (currently amended):

The method of claim 7 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows traffic to be admitted so long as the bandwidth availability of the corresponding exit ~~point~~ port exists.

9. (currently amended):

A routing resource comprising means for providing fair allocation of switching capacity among a number of input ports thereof, the ~~input ports providing~~ routing resource switching packets of data having a plurality of sizes, the fair allocation being provided according to output bandwidth capacity of output links associated with the input and total switching capacity utilization of the routing resource.

10. (original):

The routing resource of claim 9 wherein the fair allocation is maintained by throttling back those input ports which attempt to exceed the output bandwidth capacity of their associated

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output links or which attempt to utilize more than their allocated share operating at the total

switching capacity.

11. (original):

The routing resource of claim 10 wherein throttling back comprises dropping packets at an

ingress point of the routing resource.

12. (currently amended):

A router comprising means for communicatively coupling a first number of local area

network (LAN) ports with a second number of wide area network (WAN) links, the ~~LAN~~

~~ports providing~~ router switching packets of data having a plurality of sizes, the utilization by

each LAN port being controlled according to bandwidth availability of bundles of the WAN

links assigned to each of the LAN ports and a switching capacity of the router.

13. (previously presented):

The router of claim 12 wherein the router further comprises means for permitting individual

ones of the LAN ports to exceed their fair share of the switching capacity of a current

switching load due to traffic from all the LAN ports is less than a maximum switching

capacity of the router.

14. (previously presented):

The router of claim 12 wherein the router further comprises means for throttling back those

of the LAN ports exceeding their fair share of the switching capacity when a total switching

load due to traffic from all of the LAN ports equal to a maximum switching capacity of the

router.

15. (previously presented):

The router of claim 14 wherein throttling back a LAN port comprises dropping one or more

packets inbound on that port at the packets' entry point to the router.

16. (currently amended):

Computer-readable medium having a sequence of instructions, the sequences of instructions,

when executed by a processor, causing the processor to perform a method comprising

comprising:

    determining, at an entry point-port selected from one of a first number of local area

        network (LAN) ports of a router resource, whether or not to admit inbound traffic

        according to a fair allocation distribution scheme that allows traffic to be admitted

        according to bandwidth availability of a corresponding exit port point-for the traffic

        selected from one of a second number of wide area networks (WAN) links of the

        router resource and a current utilization of total switching capacity of the router

        resource; and

    switching admitted inbound traffic having packets of data of a plurality of sizes from the

        entry port to the exit port of the router resource.

17. (currently amended):

The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows traffic

to be admitted so long as the bandwidth availability of the corresponding exit port point

exists.

18. (currently amended):

The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows traffic

to be admitted even if a the exit port of the router resource associated with that traffic is

exceeding an allocated amount of the total switching capacity of the router resource so long

as the total switching capacity of the router resource has not been attained.

19. (currently amended):

The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows traffic

to be admitted so long as the bandwidth availability of the corresponding exit port point

exists.

20. (previously presented):

The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the fair allocation is maintained by

throttling back those input ports which attempt to exceed the output bandwidth capacity of

their associated output links or which attempt to utilize more than their allocated share

operating at the total switching capacity.

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21. (previously presented):

The computer-readable medium of claim 20 wherein throttling back comprises dropping

packets at an ingress point of the routing resource.

22. (previously presented):

The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the sequences of instructions is

embodied on one of a floppy disk and a CD-ROM.

23. (previously presented):

The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the sequences of instructions is

embodied in electronic signals transported through a communication medium.

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